

**01955**

1996/06/20

JOINT STAFF  
INFO SERVICE CENTER  
\*\*\*PERSONAL FOR\*\*\*

PRIORITY/ROUTINE  
P R 200339Z JUN 96  
FM USDAO BEIJING CH  
TO SECDEF WASHDC//USDP// PRIORITY  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC//ISA-AP// JCS WASHDC//J2/J5//  
SECSTATE WASHDC//EAP//  
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J00/J5/J2//  
DIA WASHDC//DR/CC/DH-3A//

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ : A L SECTION 01 OF 04 BEIJING CH

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CITE: 0559/103

RETRANSMITTAL OF USDAO BEIJING MSG 0559 DTG 180840Z JUN  
96 PER YOUR REQUEST

PASS: (U) PERSONAL FOR MR. SLOCOMBE (USDP); INFO  
SECDEF FOR DR. CAMPBELL AND COL EIKENBERRY (ISA-AP);  
CINCPAC FOR ADM PREUHER (J00), MG STEELE (J5) AND RADN  
JACOBY (J2); SECSTATE MR. WIEDEMANN AND MR. BADER  
(EAP); JCS MG KING (J2) AND BG FOGLESONG (J5); DIA FOR  
LTG HUGHES (DR), BG KERRICK (CC) AND DR. FONTANA (DH-  
3A) FROM BG MIKE BYRNES.

SUBJ: YOUR VISIT TO CHINA (U)

1. (C) AMBASSADOR SASSER AND USDAO BEIJING LOOK  
FORWARD TO YOUR VISIT TO BEIJING. WE SEE THIS VISIT AS  
AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP THE SINO-U.S.  
MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. YOUR VISIT COMES AT A  
PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TIME IN SINO-U.S. RELATIONS AS  
BOTH SIDES ARE IN THE MIDST OF ASSESSING THE EVENTS OF  
THE PAST YEAR AND ARE DEVELOPING STRATEGIES FOR DEALING  
WITH EACH OTHER IN THE NEAR TERM.

2. (C) WHILE THE U.S. POSITION HAS EVOLVED  
CONSIDERABLY OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS TOWARD A ROUGH  
CONSENSUS ON CHINA POLICY, THE MAIN CHARACTERISTIC OF  
CHINA'S CURRENT APPROACH TO THE U.S. IS THE DEVELOPMENT  
OF SHARPLY CONTRASTING VIEWS. THESE CONTRASTING VIEWS  
ARE MANIFEST IN VACILLATING POLICY PRONOUNCEMENTS ON  
THE U.S. ON ANY GIVEN DAY ONE CAN PICK UP CHINESE  
PRESS ARTICLES HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE U.S. AND OTHER  
ARTICLES WHICH ARE MUCH MORE MODERATE IN TONE. I  
BELIEVE THESE MIXED AND CONTRARY MESSAGES REFLECT AN  
ONGOING DEBATE WITHIN THE CHINESE BUREAUCRACY ON THE  
FOCUS OF U.S. OBJECTIVES TOWARDS CHINA AND, IN TURN,  
HOW CHINA SHOULD RELATE TO THE U.S.

5. (C) BACKGROUND.

A. (C) CHINESE STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS. FOLLOWING  
THE DENG XIAOPING-INITIATED STRATEGIC SHIFT IN 1985,  
CHINESE NATIONAL SECURITY PLANNERS HAVE RECEIVED A  
NUMBER OF JOLTS WHICH HAVE LEFT STRATEGIC DECISION  
MAKING IN A STATE OF CONFUSION. IN THE 1960'S THE PRC  
ADOPTED A NORTHWARD ORIENTED, LARGE SCALE, NUCLEAR WAR  
SCENARIO IN WHICH CHINA WOULD BE ON THE STRATEGIC  
DEFENSIVE. IN THE LATE 1980'S, CHINA REFOCUSED ON A  
SOUTHWARD THREAT OF LOCAL, LIMITED WARS WITH A GREATER  
OFFENSIVE CONTENT THAN THE PRE-1985 STRATEGY. EVENTS  
SUCH AS TIANANMEN, THE GULF WAR, AND THE DISINTEGRATION  
OF THE SOVIET UNION HAVE COMBINED TO DISRUPT THE  
NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY PROCESS. THE LACK OF AN  
UNAMBIGUOUS THREAT AND THE LACK OF LEADERSHIP FOCUS ON  
THE MILITARY COMPONENTS OF NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY  
HAVE TENDED TO INHIBIT STRATEGIC THINKING.

JOINT STAFF V1  
ACTION  
INFO NMCC:CWO(1) JSAMS(1) J5:SPEC(1)

(M,C)

3

SECDEF V2  
ACTION  
INFO CHAIRS-SPECIAL(1) SECDEF-C(1)  
USDP EXCLUSIVE/PERSONAL FOR(6)

(M,C)

8

DIA V3  
ACTION  
INFO +DIA/SPEC

(M,C)

0

C. (C) THE PLA'S STATED MILITARY STRATEGY IS THE  
VAGUELY DEFINED STRATEGY OF ACTIVE DEFENSE. SOMEWHERE  
UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF ACTIVE DEFENSE IS THE SO CALLED  
STRATEGY OF LOCAL WARS. THIS IMPLIES A SHIFT FROM A  
CONTINENTAL FOCUS TO A MARITIME FOCUS. IF, AS IT  
APPEARS, THIS SHIFT IS ACTUALIZED, IT WILL MARK A

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STRATEGIC REVOLUTION. THERE IS MUCH EVIDENCE THAT SUCH A STRATEGY IS BEING IMPLEMENTED. THERE HAS BEEN MORE FOCUS RECENTLY ON AIR AND MARITIME MODERNIZATION, WITH POSSIBLE END GOAL OF DEVELOPING A LIMITED POWER PROJECTION CAPABILITY. OVERRIDING THIS ACTIVE DEFENSE AND LOCAL WAR CONCEPT IS THE PLA'S EMPHASIS ON OPERATING IN A HIGH TECHNOLOGY ENVIRONMENT. U.S. SUCCESSES DURING THE GULF WAR AGAINST SOVIET STYLE FORCES, EQUIPMENT, AND TACTICS SHOOK THE PLA TO ITS ROOTS AND RESULTED IN A MAJOR EMPHASIS ON TECHNOLOGICAL TRAINING FOR ITS FORCES.

E. (U) WHILE CHINA'S STATUS AS A GREAT NATION IS INCREASINGLY APPARENT, IT IS STILL LEARNING HOW TO SHOULDER THE BURDENS OF A GREAT NATION AND HOW TO SHARE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR REGIONAL AND GLOBAL SECURITY. WE DO NOT SEE CHINA AS A THREAT, BUT WE BELIEVE CHINA MUST BE MORE OPEN AND SENSITIVE TO THE SECURITY PERCEPTIONS OF ITS NEIGHBORS. THIS POINT NEEDS TO BE EMPHASIZED TO YOUR CHINESE HOSTS. THE CHINESE APPEAR OBLIVIOUS TO THE IMPACT OF THEIR SECURITY AND MILITARY ACTIONS ON OTHERS IN THE REGION. CHINA IS LESS THAN OPEN IN ITS EXPLANATION OF ITS GROWING DEFENSE BUDGET, MILITARY MODERNIZATION, AND MILITARY STRATEGY. THIS LACK OF OPENNESS OFTEN RESULTS IN GREATER SUSPICION THAN NECESSARY.

- THE USG, INCLUDING DOD, SEEKS TO ENGAGE CHINA AND TO COOPERATE WITH CHINA IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL AND GLOBAL SECURITY STRUCTURES AS A RESPONSIBLE POWER. THERE IS NO U.S. POLICY TO CONTAIN CHINA.

- BOTH MILITARIES AND NATIONS HAVE COMMON INTERESTS IN MAINTAINING REGIONAL AND GLOBAL PEACE, PROVIDING A STABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH, MAINTAINING PEACE AND STABILITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA, AND CONTROLLING THE PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.

- THE MILITARY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IS A NORMAL AND SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT IN OUR OVERALL BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AND FOSTERED. THE MILITARY RELATIONSHIP MUST BE CONDUCTED ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND RECIPROCITY.

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PASS: (U) PERSONAL FOR MR. SLOCOMBE (USDP); INFO

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JOINT STAFF  
INFO SERVICE CENTER  
\*\*\*PERSONAL FOR\*\*\*

- WE APPRECIATE THE PLA'S SUPPORT TO OUR VISITING  
DELEGATIONS AND TO OTHER DOD PROGRAMS SUCH AS MIA  
ACCOUNTING OPERATIONS.



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LTG HUGHES (DR), BG KERRICK (CC) AND DR. FONTANA (DH-  
JA) FROM BG MIKE BYRNES.

SUBJ: YOUR VISIT TO CHINA (U)

RELATIONSHIP. AS THE SECDEF SO APTLY POINTED OUT "IT  
TAKES TWO TO TANGO." VERY RESPECTFULLY, MIKE BYRNES,  
DATT BEIJING.

DRV FROM: DIA/DH-D MSG 291330Z JAN 96  
DECL: X1 BT

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